

DaimlerChrysler AG

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Patent Claims

1. An operating device for a vehicle having keys (2) and a rotatable control wheel (3), preferably for operating vehicle functions and/or an audio system and/or a telephone and/or a navigation device, the keys and the control wheel being arranged in a front section, and a support body with a support surface (61) for laying on a hand being arranged in a rear section, and the axis of rotation (34) of the control wheel (3) being arranged at right angles to the support surface (61),

characterized in that the keys (2) are arranged in an operating plane (41) that encloses an obtuse angle with the support surface (61), and in that the peripheral surface (33) of the control wheel has a top surface (31) and a bottom surface (32) that are inclined to one another such that the control wheel (3) has its greatest diameter at the line of contact of the surfaces (31, 32).

2. The operating device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that arranged to the left and/or right next to the control wheel (3) is and/or are one or more further keys (2) and/or one or more rotary regulators (21) in an operating surface running parallel to the support surface (61).

3. The operating device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the support surface (61) has a curvature adapted ergonomically to a hand surface.

4. The operating device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3,  
characterized  
in that a large part of the control wheel (3) is  
5 arranged below the support surface (61).

5. The operating device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4,  
characterized  
10 in that the control wheel (3) has a contoured,  
preferably fluted peripheral surface (33).

6. The operating device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5,  
15 characterized  
in that the bottom surface (31) has a greater extent by  
comparison with the top surface (32), and forms an  
ergonomically advantageous bearing surface for fingers.

7. The operating device as claimed in one of the  
20 preceding claims,  
characterized  
in that the support surface (61) is of foldable design  
and in the normal position protects and/or covers a key  
25 pad (62) arranged inside the support body (6).

8. The operating device as claimed in one of the  
preceding claims,  
characterized  
30 in that a key (22) or a number of keys has or have a  
haptically uniquely distinguishable shape and/or  
surface such that a key (22) or a number of keys can be  
selected or distinguished solely by feeling.

9. A center console of a vehicle,  
35 characterized  
in that the center console (11) has an operating device  
(1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims.

10. A vehicle seat having an arm rest,  
characterized  
in that the arm rest (13) has an operating device (1)  
as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8.